



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 May 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- According to CBS News, a major supplier of material used in military and commercial cargo-carrying aircraft may be endangering passengers with products that do not meet specifications and can leave behind contaminants that weaken finished parts. (See item [20](#))
- Reuters reports that U.S. federal agencies must do a better job of sharing information with each other as well as state, local, and private organizations to combat deadly bacteria such as E. coli that threaten thousands of people each year, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released on Thursday. (See item [28](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#); [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 23, CNN* – (International) **Assault at gas pumps related to attacks on Nigerian pipelines.** One reason for record high gas prices in the U.S., analysts say, is a spate of attacks on oil pipelines in Nigeria. The attacks are relatively small, but the fallout is substantial. The average price of a gallon of gas in the U.S. climbed to \$3.831 on Thursday – the sixteenth consecutive day of a price increase and the fifteenth consecutive record high, according to AAA. While analysts cite various factors in various countries for the increases, the price could keep going up with more attacks on pipelines in Nigeria, which accounts for one of every ten barrels of oil that arrives in the U.S. Exxon and Shell are two of several companies that had been extracting two million

barrels of oil a day in Nigeria. Yet a rebel group's attacks on oil pipelines in the Niger Delta have cut overall production by roughly ten percent – meaning 200,000 fewer barrels of oil on some days. The disruptions in Nigeria began around the beginning of 2006, when the Movement for the Emancipation for the Niger Delta (MEND) started to target foreign oil companies. The rebel group hopes to secure a greater share of oil wealth for people in the Niger Delta. MEND has bombed pipelines and kidnapped hundreds of foreign oil workers, typically releasing them unharmed, sometimes after receiving a ransom payment.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/africa/05/23/gasprices.nigeria/index.html>

2. *May 23, Greeley Tribune* – (Colorado) **Massive storm levels 35-mile path through Weld en route to Windsor.** A tornado destroyed dozens of houses in Windsor, took one life in Greeley, and knocked around cars and semi-trailers Thursday on a 35-mile rampage throughout Weld County. Some 60,000 customers lost power in the area, but power was later restored to all but 15,000 of them, according to an Xcel Energy spokesman. He said about 200 power poles and four substations are down throughout the tornado's path, from Platteville to Windsor. By Friday, there will be about 40 line crews and ten tree-trimming crews in the county to rebuild. "We'll not see a whole lot of progress in reducing that 15,000 for several days, because you're rebuilding something that under normal conditions would take weeks," he said. "There will be customers out for maybe a week or more." The governor of Colorado flew into Windsor and declared a state of emergency in Weld. A director from the Federal Emergency Management Agency was on hand, and FEMA will assess the damages beginning Friday.

Source: <http://www.greeleytrib.com/article/20080523/NEWS/139425025>

3. *May 23, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **One killed after crane collapses at power plant.** One worker was killed and three others were injured Friday after a crane collapsed at a construction site next to the Kansas City Power & Light's (KCPL) Iatan power plant in Platte County. A KCPL spokesperson said the victims were contractors with one of several construction companies working on a new coal-fired plant at the site. The crane collapsed around 7:30 a.m., tipping over on its side and crumpling alongside the construction site. Investigators were on the scene to determine why the crane collapsed. The Iatan power plant remained open, but the construction site was shut down following the accident.

Source: http://cjonline.com/stories/052308/bre_crane.shtml

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *May 23, Xinhua* – (International) **No nuclear leaks in China's quake zone, recovery**

work continues. Nuclear technicians have found no signs of radiation leaks in nuclear facilities in southwest China's quake zone, but 15 radiation "sources" are still inaccessible, the vice minister of environmental protection said Friday. Expert teams sent by the ministry and local environment departments immediately after the quake had thoroughly examined all nuclear facilities in the province, he said. As of Thursday noon, the experts had identified 50 radiation "sources" and had moved 35 to safe areas, while the locations of the rest had been identified, he said. Three of the 15 remaining sources were buried under rubble while the other 12 were in dangerous buildings that technicians could not yet enter," he said. Environmental departments in other quake-hit provinces have not reported any radiation leaks either after inspections of nuclear facilities. The ministry ordered all organizations that hold radioactive material to tighten self-monitoring and update reports to environmental authorities.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-05/23/content_8237365.htm

5. *May 23, RIA Novosti* – (International) **Russian nuclear power websites attacked amid accident rumors.** Hackers attacked Russian nuclear power websites that allow users to check radiation background amid false rumors of a nuclear accident in northwest Russia, a nuclear industry official said on Friday. On Tuesday and Wednesday, several Internet forums carried reports of radioactive emissions from the Leningrad Nuclear Power Plant near St. Petersburg, and of a planned evacuation of local residents. A spokesman for the Rosatom state nuclear corporation said the cyber attacks had been planned and coincided with the release of the reports. "This was a planned action by hackers, which has brought down almost all sites providing access to the Automatic Radiation Environment Control System (ASKRO), including the Leningrad NPP site, the rosatom.ru site, and others. For several hours users were unable to reach the sites and obtain reliable information on the situation at the plant," he said. Access to ASKRO data has now been fully restored, he said.

Source: <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20080523/108202288.html>

6. *May 23, World Nuclear News* – (National) **U.S. awards waste contract; Progress wins back costs.** The U.S. Court of Federal Claims has awarded Progress Energy \$82.8 million to cover used fuel management costs incurred as a result of the government's failure to provide used fuel management. Progress' award is the latest in a series of some 60 lawsuits launched by U.S. utilities to try to recover the extra costs they have incurred from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) failure to take their spent fuel. Meanwhile, the DOE has awarded two contracts worth up to \$13.8 million in total for the design, licensing, and demonstration of a canister system for use at the proposed Yucca Mountain repository to Areva Federal Services and NAC International. The Transport, Aging and Disposal (TAD) canister system will be the primary means used for packaging spent fuel for transportation to and disposal in the Nevada repository, according to the DOE. The director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management described the move as "a significant step in the Department's efforts to license and construct the repository at Yucca Mountain." DOE envisages that most used fuel would be permanently sealed in the casks at utility sites before transport to Yucca Mountain. The canisters could be commercially available as soon as 2013.

Source: http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/WR-US_awards_waste_contract-

[Progress_wins_back_costs-2305081.html](http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2310901920080523)

7. *May 22, Reuters* – (Connecticut) **Lightning shut Dominion Conn. Millstone 2 reactor.** Dominion Resources Inc.'s Unit 2 at the Millstone nuclear power station in Connecticut shut from full power Thursday after lightning struck the main transformer, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The company said the reactor had "an uncomplicated trip." Electricity traders guessed the unit would return to service over the next few days.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2310901920080523>

8. *May 22, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **Idaho radioactive waste containers had filters removed.** A U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) investigation into the removal and discarding of filters from eight drums containing radioactive waste at an eastern Idaho nuclear facility has determined that the incident was not an act of sabotage. However, officials offered no explanation as to why an employee removed the filters, creating the potential for contaminating other workers. The company responsible for processing the nuclear waste, Bechtel BWXT Idaho, said an employee confessed to removing the filters, according to a Bechtel spokesman. The individual no longer works at the facility. No one was contaminated, the company said. Bechtel immediately increased security after the April 9 incident was discovered. A DOE spokesman said the Federal Bureau of Investigation also investigated and that no charges have been filed. A routine inspection discovered the missing filters, he said.

Source:

http://blog.oregonlive.com/breakingnews/2008/05/radioactive_waste_containers_h.html

9. *May 22, Asbury Park Press* – (National) **No proof, no license.** Six months ago, an audit of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval process for nuclear power plant license extensions by the agency's inspector general found that information provided in some NRC safety evaluation reports was identical, or nearly identical, to the corresponding applications, casting doubt on whether the NRC independently reviewed the applications. Disturbed by the findings, the inspector general reviewed how the NRC staff prepared the reports documenting their assessments at four nuclear plants. According to a memo from the Inspector General's Office released earlier this month, the audit revealed application documents and working papers used to support the review and approval of the application were destroyed by NRC staff. "Consequently," the memo concluded, "the failure to retain applicant documents and NRC working papers made it difficult to verify specific details of staff on-site review activities."

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080522/COMMUNITY/805220305>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *May 23, CNET News* – (National) **Interceptor missile to take on ICBMs.** Lockheed Martin said last week it has reached an important milestone in the development of one piece of the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System puzzle: an interceptor missile capable

of taking out multiple enemy intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) warheads. The U.S. Missile Defense Agency's Multiple Kill Vehicle-L would be launched as a single interceptor equipped with a multiple-kill payload that does not bother with the single warhead – it goes after an entire “threat cluster” instead. It is designed to destroy not only the enemy's re-entry vehicle, but also all the warheads it may contain, including the fake ones meant to deceive U.S. defenses. The contractor plans to build two operational prototype seekers, each with a state-of-the-art infrared plane array. One will be mounted on an aircraft to test missile-seeking ability in a flight environment next year; the other will be used in the laboratory to demonstrate the engagement of multiple targets. The program could come on line by 2017.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-10784_3-9951079-7.html

11. *May 22, KTKA 49 Topeka* – (National) **Soldier Internet use could pose security threat.** Fort Riley soldiers use several tools to communicate with their families here and abroad. But at a click of a mouse, these soldiers could potentially threaten national security. Military staff tell 49 News the use of Web sites makes the Fort Riley network vulnerable to Internet hackers and viruses. Fort Riley's information management staff is teaching soldiers about the importance of limiting information they release, even something as simple as soldiers blogging about when they are coming home. The military does restrict use of certain Web sites for those on post, but it even imposes a restriction for soldiers abroad. Soldiers are encouraged not to use Web sites like MySpace or Facebook because it can make troops vulnerable overseas. A lot of families use these tools to communicate. Though the risk of a terrorist is always possible, a Fort Riley information management staff member says the bigger threat is an internal spy because he says they have access to so much information.

Source:

http://www.ktk.com/news/2008/may/22/soldier_internet_use_could_pose_security_threat/

12. *May 22, CNET News* – (National) **Army to honor gear that lessens IED damage.** This year, the 2007 Army Greatest Invention winners include a mechanism called SPARK, designed to detonate roadside bombs – also known as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs – before they can do too much damage to a vehicle, and HEAT, a training device to help soldiers learn how to escape a Humvee overturned by an explosion or other mishap. SPARK is short for “self-protective adaptive roller kit,” a mine roller system that attaches to the front or rear of a vehicle. It works by applying downward pressure in order to trigger IEDs before they are underneath the vehicle where their explosions are most devastating. HEAT is the Humvee egress assistance trainer, a full-scale mockup of the vehicle interior that can be rotated through 360 degrees by an electric motor. It simulates a rollover and lets soldiers practice opening their safety harnesses and exiting through doors or hatches, even when upside-down or at an odd angle. It is now a required training stop for all soldiers and for some U.S. Defense Department civilian employees who will be serving overseas. Both projects were led by the Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-10784_3-9950523-7.html

Banking and Finance Sector

13. *May 23, Republican-American* – (National) **Security breach could involve more banks.** A security breach at the Bank of New York Mellon Corp. may have compromised the information of customers at several other banks, Connecticut's attorney general said Thursday. A preliminary investigation indicated that computer tapes that disappeared in February included data from the Bank of New York Mellon and People's United Bank of Bridgeport. It also may have included the data of customers of Webster Bank, and Wachovia, the attorney general said. People's has acknowledged sharing its customers' information with the New York bank. It was unclear why the Bank of New York Mellon had information on other two banks' customers. The tapes contained millions of Social Security numbers, names and addresses and possibly bank account numbers and balances, he said.
Source: <http://www.rep-am.com/news/doc4836b62357510423039668.txt>
14. *May 23, Tech World* – (National) **Banker: Payment collaboration to curb Internet fraud.** With the business of Internet banking changing and online threats growing, the industry needs to adapt and integrate security technology across more channels and be more collaborative to reduce fraud, according to a Standard Chartered Bank consumer banking risk advisor. He said there is a problem with payment security in general and even the recent trend of two-factor authentication is not a remedy. During his keynote address on implementing multi-factor authentication for Internet banking at this year's AusCERT security conference, the specialist spoke of how his personal experience with electronic payments spurred his professional interest. As far as the fraudsters are concerned, the theft of funds needs to be automated, which means they need to have some form of straight-through processes of their own. As they do this the banks are moving to faster payments due to demand from customers. The specialist used the term "Payment Security 1.0" to describe the next evolution in electronic financial transactions which involves more contextual information from the user and the bank. "Two-factor authentication does improve security, but it could be better. You should know what's going on in the transaction and authorization can be a multi-party dilemma," he said, adding there could be times when the bank is involved. Standard Chartered has now implemented two-factor authentication in five countries with plans to extend it to twenty. Of the two-factor authentication methods - including tokens, display and "bingo" cards, SMS, and IVR call back - Standard Chartered is deploying them in various ways in different countries.
Source:
<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/052108-banker-payment-collaboration-to-curb.html>
15. *May 23, Insurance Journal* – (National) **FBI says fighting financial crimes a priority; insurance cases top 200.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation pursued 529 financial crime cases in its most recent fiscal year, including 209 insurance fraud cases. The FBI said it expects the number of cases and subsequent arrest and conviction statistics to rise in the near future as more fraud is uncovered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The insurance fraud cases are included in the FBI's Financial Crimes Report to the Public,

Fiscal Year 2007, which discusses corporate fraud, securities and commodities fraud, health care fraud, mortgage fraud, insurance fraud, mass marketing fraud, and asset forfeiture/money laundering. “Financial crimes affect the economic security of millions of Americans, and the FBI is dedicated to working with our partners in industry and law enforcement to combat these offenses,” said Assistant Director, FBI Criminal Investigative Division. Some key findings presented in the report include: As of the end of FY 2007, 529 corporate fraud cases were being pursued by the FBI, several of which involve losses to public investors that individually exceed \$1 billion; 2,493 health care fraud cases; 1,204 pending mortgage fraud cases; and 548 money laundering. The report said the FBI considers insurance fraud an investigative priority, due in large part to the insurance industry’s significant status in the U.S. economy. The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud (CAIF) estimates that the cost of fraud in the industry is as high as \$80 billion each year. This cost is passed on to consumers in the form of higher premiums. Source: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2008/05/23/90276.htm>

16. *May 22, Computerworld* – (National) **ING looks to help customers secure online transactions.** Despite numerous security measures by online banks and e-commerce sites to secure consumer data, few have been able or even willing to directly protect customers using their sites from phishing scams and data-stealing malware. Among those looking to make a change is online bank ING Direct USA, which this week made available a small software tool from Trusteer Inc. that is designed to protect consumers against online fraud and ID theft. Trusteer’s Rapport software, available as a free download, helps protect customers by essentially building a secure connection between a users’ desktop and the Web site he is accessing, said the Trusteer CEO. All communications and transactions between the user and the site are carried out within this secure tunnel, he said. The goal is to prevent the data that is exchanged during an online transaction from being stolen by keystroke loggers and other types of threats such as man-in-the-middle attacks and session hijacking, he said.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9088259&intsrc=hm_list
17. *May 22, News-Gazette* – (Illinois) **‘Phishing’ scam involves e-mails, phone requests.** Credit union and telecommunications officials are warning Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, area residents about recent waves of “phishing” scams trying to get private credit information. The president of Land of Lincoln Credit Union based in Decatur, said members and nonmembers have received e-mails, text messages and direct phone calls since late May 13, all asking for information on credit union accounts, credit cards or debit cards. “We want our members and the general public to know we don’t ask for account information. We already have that information. They need to be careful.” Consolidated Communications, which offers phone, Internet and cable television services, including offices in Charleston and Mattoon, also put out warnings Tuesday to its customers about the scam. The phony calls asked people to call a phone number in the 303 area code, a spokeswoman for Consolidated Communications said. The scam included asking people to complete a survey and receive cash, notices that accounts or cards had been suspended or claims that the credit union on-line banking services were

down. In all cases, the messages or calls asked people for their account information or credit or debit card account numbers and personal identification numbers.

Source:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/1399110/phishing_scam_involves_emails_ph_one_requests/

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Transportation Sector

18. *May 23, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **After breaches, Lambert police assume duties.** Lambert-St. Louis International Airport police have taken over duties from a private security company at a passenger exit after two security breaches in less than a month. After the latest incident, the Lambert Police Chief decided to assign a police officer to the A Concourse exit lane when federal officers are not present. Lambert officials have required the firm to put its officers through retraining, and the firm has brought in a new manager for airport operations, said a Lambert spokesman. Firm officials could not be reached on Thursday.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/1BD2F360A916918486257452000CDEE7?OpenDocument>

19. *May 23, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey; New York) **Airports to get \$400 million for new bomb detectors.** The U.S. Transportation Security Administration will contribute \$400 million for automated systems to screen checked baggage for explosives at Newark Liberty International, John F. Kennedy International and La Guardia airports. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airports, will accept the funding, which requires a local 10 percent match, the agency's chairman said Wednesday. Such systems use conveyer-belt tracks to move luggage automatically from ticket counters to the bomb-detection machines and then onto the planes. They are intended to make the security process more efficient, reduce the chance of injury to screeners who otherwise would be lifting heavy bags, and clear space in terminals.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-10/1211517490191910.xml&coll=1>

20. *May 22, CBS News* – (National) **Aircraft probe raises fears.** Every day, several thousand military and commercial aircraft take off around the world, carrying precious cargo of soldiers and civilians. CBS News has learned one of the major suppliers of material used in many of those planes may be putting those passengers at risk. In a memo obtained by CBS News, Army criminal investigators use stark language in making their case against California-based Airtech International, writing: "seldom have I come across a company with such brazen disregard for safety of soldiers and civilians as well as for the sanctity of laws ..." Airtech dominates the market for the raw materials used to build what are called "composites." Composites are the layers of high-tech plastics increasingly used to replace critical metal parts in the wings engines and the fuselage in many planes, including the C-17, F-18 fighter jets and 747s. The memo alleges "kickbacks," "fraudulent acts" and the systematic selling of "non-conforming"

products – basically products that do not meet specifications and can leave behind contaminants that can weaken the finished parts. It reads, “Airtech has supplied some form of nonconforming product to every aircraft manufacturer in the world.” “It’s a threat to the flying public, because Airtech is supplying bogus materials to companies,” said Project on Government Oversight investigator. “And it’s possible these bogus materials could lead to composite parts falling apart.” Airtech said it was “aware of no current ongoing investigation,” and that it had “fully cooperated” with the government. Source:

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/05/22/eveningnews/main4120978.shtml?source=mostpop_story

21. *May 22, WFAA 8 Dallas* – (Texas) **Gate to runway found open at Addison airport.**

On Tuesday WFAA News 8 found that a perimeter gate that leads out to a busy runway at Addison Airport in Dallas was left wide open for almost two hours. The gate is right in the shadow of the air traffic control tower. On Wednesday, News 8 returned to the same spot and found the gate still wide open with no one at site. Addison Airport boasts 24-hour security on its web site. The Transportation Security Administration issues recommendations, not orders, for security at airports like Addison’s. When the airport was called, it knew exactly what gate News 8 was referring to before the location was disclosed. The gate has had an intermittent problem, said an airport spokesman. But he added this is not Addison Airport’s fault. The gate, he explained, is on private property, which adjoins the airport. The airport official said the owner plans to fix it. Still, Addison’s own airport regulations say the city can step in and fix a security problem if necessary. It never did for this breach. After at least two days, the owner fixed the fence. Source:

http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/localnews/news8/stories/wfaa080522_m_o_opengate.1cf10a4b.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *May 23, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Package forces shelter evacuation.**

Authorities are searching for the sender of a suspicious package that forced evacuation of a women’s resource center in Hingham Thursday, police said. A package marked confidential arrived at the Mary-Martha Learning Center Thursday, a day after an acquaintance of one of the center’s residents made threatening phone calls about blowing up the building. Police evacuated the Main Street center and closed Route 228 for more than an hour, until the state bomb squad determined the package was safe. Inside the box was a manicure kit. The package was marked with a New Jersey zip code. If he is located, the suspect will face charges of communicating a bomb threat. Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/05/23/package_forces_shelter_evacuation/

23. *May 22, Associated Press* – (California) **Mystery powder at Pomona post office, found nonhazardous.** Eleven people were taken to a hospital for examination Thursday

after they were exposed to a mysterious white powder at a Pomona post office. Initial tests determined the substance nonhazardous, said a Los Angeles County fire dispatcher. The employees were working on a loading dock when they were exposed to powder that spilled from an unopened, 24-by-12-inch brown package, a Los Angeles County fire inspector said. A hazardous materials squad, county sheriff's deputies, and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were called to the scene at about 10:15 a.m. The post office was closed and 45 postal employees were evacuated, he said. Eleven people who may have been exposed to the powder were decontaminated. They were sent to a hospital for examination but none showed any signs of illness. The fire inspector said the package apparently had been mailed from outside the country, but he did not have other details.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20080522-2050-ca-postalpowder.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *May 22, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Congressional delegation asks review of NM bovine TB status.** New Mexico's congressional delegation has asked the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) secretary not to take any action on bovine tuberculosis testing that could harm the state's livestock industry. Bovine TB was discovered in 2003 in cattle in Curry and Roosevelt counties, but federal authorities required that only cattle from part of those counties be tested before being shipped out of state. Earlier this year, one cow in a Curry County feedlot was found to be infected, prompting the USDA to consider requiring statewide testing. The New Mexico delegation contends that would be costly and unnecessary, saying also that changing the state's status is premature since follow-up tests this year found no additional infections. The livestock industry is the state's single most important agricultural commodity with total annual sales of dairy and beef cattle totaling almost \$2 billion. Downgrading the livestock industry could cost producers more than \$4 million a year.

Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/ci_9344895

25. *May 22, Delta Farm Press* – (Missouri) **Viruses biggest wheat disease problem in Missouri.** In recent weeks, several samples in Missouri have tested positive for wheat streak mosaic, which is among the most damaging of the viral diseases. "This is a good year for viruses in wheat. In the central part of the state, viruses are a big problem," she said. "Yield loss is very challenging to predict. However, in some cases you can get up to a 50 percent yield loss," another specialist said. "It can cause sterile heads and a less extensive root system."

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/wheat/viruses-disease-0522/>

26. *May 22, Asia Pulse Data Source* – (International) **Fungal threat to region's food security.** UG99 (*Puccinia graminis*), a new and virulent agricultural fungus, previously found in Yemen and East Africa, has invaded major wheat growing areas of the Middle East. The infestation has put Iran on high alert along with several other important cereal producing countries close by, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan,

Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. The disaster is unfolding at a time of mounting global agricultural shortages and the lowest global grain stockpiles recorded for decades. Within the Middle East, a dozen countries are facing deteriorating agricultural emergencies. A timely Middle East regional conference in March, organized by the United Nations (UN), projected a bleak near-term future for the farming industry of the region. The director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has called for increased public investment, financed from the current rise in hydrocarbon revenues, to confront the trend, a UN report says. The fungus is capable of travelling long distances and destroying entire wheat fields very fast. Its detection in Iran is described by the FAO as very worrisome because, explains a scientific spokesperson, as much as 80 percent of all wheat varieties planted in the Middle East are susceptible to the disease.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1604603/>

27. *May 22, Associated Press* – (National) **Dangers of mainland disease lab debated at hearing.** National Grange, one of the nation's oldest farm groups, said Thursday a proposed foot-and-mouth disease research laboratory on the U.S. mainland, near livestock, could be an inviting target for terrorists. Commercial livestock representatives and the Bush administration insisted it would be safe to move an island lab to sites near animals. Testimony at a House hearing showed deep divisions between farmers and ranchers over where to conduct research on the most infectious animal-only disease in the world. Such work now is confined to Plum Island, New York, off of Long Island. The administration has announced five finalist sites on the mainland for a new lab. A new facility on Plum Island to replace the current, outmoded lab remains a possibility. All sides agreed that the wrong decision would bring an economic catastrophe if a new lab failed to contain the virus within the facility. An epidemic could ruin farmers and ranchers as well as related industries in feed, transportation, exports, and retail. A Government Accountability Office report obtained by the Associated Press on Thursday found that the Bush administration relied on a flawed study to conclude that research could safely be moved from an isolated island laboratory to sites on the mainland near livestock. "The Homeland Security Department 'does not have evidence' that foot-and-mouth disease research can be conducted on the U.S. mainland without significant risk of an animal epidemic, the report said.

Sources:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gDdJ3UTsqcN2JyaG8SKq_yCh8cpwD90QTK300
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gDdJ3UTsqcN2JyaG8SKq_yCh8cpwD90QHUCO0

28. *May 22, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. agencies must talk to boost food safety: study.** U.S. federal agencies must do a better job of sharing information with each other as well as state, local, and private organizations to combat deadly bacteria such as E. coli that threaten thousands of people each year, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released on Thursday. The CDC has estimated that 76 million people in the U.S. get sick every year with some sort of foodborne illness and that 5,000 die. The report said the current system is impaired because thousands of local health departments, university researchers, corporations, and other institutions often

collect data for their own use, with no mandate to share information. To improve the food safety network, researchers said, incentives for government and private organizations to collaborate must replace the obstacles to sharing information.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2229257320080522?sp=true>

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Water Sector

29. *May 23, Globe and Mail* – (International) **Cameco testing for uranium leak in Lake Ontario.** The world's largest uranium producer is looking into whether uranium, along with arsenic and fluorides, might have leaked into Lake Ontario from its Port Hope, Canada, processing plant. A spokesman for Cameco Corp. said that computer modeling in recent weeks shows that "small amounts of contaminated groundwater may be entering the harbor," but it is still unknown whether that is actually the case. He said that 22 monitoring wells are being installed along the water to confirm that data. The work is part of an investigation following the plant's shutdown last July, when uranium hexafluoride operations were suspended after the discovery of contaminated soil under the facility. The company notified the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission about the finding last week. Meanwhile, Cameco maintains that water quality in the area has not changed and that uranium, arsenic and fluoride levels in the harbor have been consistent for the past nine years. Cameco said it spent \$18-million last year to address the situation, and cleanup costs this year are expected to be as much as \$20-million. Production is expected to restart in the third quarter of 2008 "at the earliest," a company statement said.

Source:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080523.CAMECO23/TPStory/TNational/Ontario/>

30. *May 23, WLNS 6 Lansing* – (Michigan) **Boil water advisory.** Hundreds of people in Jackson County, Michigan, are under a boil water advisory alert. Health officials think the water in Napoleon could be contaminated. The Jackson County Health Department say the trouble started when the city's water system, which also serves businesses, lost pressure. The Department is asking residents to boil water for at least five minutes before drinking or cooking with it. Napoleon schools are also closed.

Source: <http://www.wlns.com/Global/story.asp?S=8370109&nav=5D7v>

31. *May 23, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **Illinois EPA: State drinking water is safe.** The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency says preliminary test results show the state's drinking water is safe. Officials took samples from across Illinois in March to test for unregulated pharmaceuticals or personal care products. Officials say they tested for 57 chemicals. Seventeen chemicals were detected at low levels. But the EPA says there is no cause for immediate concern.

Source:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-pharmawater-illin,0,1895036.story>

32. *May 22, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **Corrosive ocean water moving inland.** The ocean is getting more corrosive closer to shore decades earlier than anyone expected, in large part because of the carbon dioxide being pumped into the air by human activities, new research shows. Scientists collecting water samples from Canada to Mexico last summer found surprisingly acidic conditions near coasts. The increasingly acidic water threatens the survival of a wide range of organisms, including certain microscopic plants and animals called plankton found at the base of the food chain; shellfish such as oysters, mussels and clams; juvenile forms of different marine animals; and coral. About one-third of the carbon dioxide produced when fossil fuels are burned sinks into the ocean. Windy conditions from early spring to late summer cause an upwelling of deeper, more acidic water to near the surface along the West Coast.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/364242_acid23.html
33. *May 21, KGMB 9 Hawaii* – (Hawaii) **E. Coli detected in Makawao water supply.** Some families in Makawao, Maui are being warned to boil their water before drinking it. E. coli bacteria was found in the water supply Wednesday. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
Source: <http://kgmb9.com/main/content/view/6698/40/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

34. *May 23, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Report: Soot killing more Californians.** The fine particles that trail after diesel trucks and hang in a haze over the valley are more deadly than previously thought, the California Air Resources Board said in a report released Thursday. The report blames at least 14,000 premature deaths each year in California on particulate matter from fuel use, power plants, and wood-burning fireplaces. Previously, officials estimated it was 8,700 deaths annually. The draft report, based on data from more than half a dozen studies across the globe, suggests that California's current standard for fine particle levels, the lowest in the nation, may not be low enough. California has set a goal of 12 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, averaged over a year. The federal standard is higher at 15 micrograms per cubic meter. Later this year, the state board is considering new rules to reduce particulate emissions from private truck fleets.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_9356372
35. *May 22, Associated Press* – (National) **Health officials get tool to monitor drug safety.** New regulations unveiled Thursday by the Department of Health and Human Services will enable federal agencies, states, and academic researchers to use Medicare claims data. Protections will be put into place to protect patient privacy and trade secrets. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been under increasing pressure to develop a drug surveillance system since the painkiller Vioxx was pulled from the market in 2004 after it was linked to increased risk of stroke and heart attack. Medicare beneficiaries use an average of 28 prescriptions a year, and those who consider themselves in poor health have an average of 45 prescriptions annually, giving health

officials a huge database of health records to tap into. Officials said they would no longer have to wait years to see how a drug or medical device affects millions of people. Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gidrRA0sOpZ1bo09VtWxz2yt95oQD90QSCM00>

Government Facilities Sector

36. *May 22, WSAZ 3 Huntington* – (West Virginia) **Suspicious pipe found on school bus, students safe.** West Virginia State Police say someone found a pipe Thursday morning in a school bus parked at the garage in Logan County. Troopers said they believe the pipe could be some type of explosive device. Investigators say the bus driver did his daily check of the bus, but he did not find the device until after his morning route. At first, the driver thought it was a flashlight, but then he saw “pipe bomb” on the side of it and called police. Troopers detonated the device. They have yet to determine if it was some type of bomb.

Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/19172284.html>

37. *May 22, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **Houston area schools violating fire codes.** Harris County’s fire marshal says arson is a growing problem at area schools. More than 130 fires have occurred in Harris County, Texas, schools alone since 2000. This figure does not include schools in Houston. Following a fire at Spring High, during which the fire alarm never sounded, inspectors cited the school for an unmaintained alarm system – a fire code violation a spokesperson for Spring Independent Schools says is now fixed. More inspections in more recent years found improper evacuation maps and improper exit signs to lead children to safety, a violation repeated four inspections in a row and still a problem today at Spring High. KHOU TV has documented the current, persisting problems with schools that are still not fire code compliant.

Source: <http://www.kvue.com/news/state/stories/052208kvueschoolfires-cb.1ba92de0.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

38. *May 23, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Drill prepares for radioactive patient.** A Thursday morning drill in Sleepy Hollow, New York, simulated how to care for a radiation contaminated Indian Point nuclear power plant worker. The event was a collaborative training exercise between the hospital and Entergy Nuclear, the owner of the Buchanan plant. The drill was the culmination of both classroom lectures and other hands-on training aimed at improving response time, communication, decontamination, and the delivery of medical treatment to someone exposed to radiation. Radiation Management Consultants provided the training, set up the drill, and evaluated the hospital’s performance. More than 65 people from the hospital, including doctors and nurses, attended the training.

Source: <http://lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008805230384>

39. *May 22, WISN 12 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Is Milwaukee prepared for a bio-terrorism attack?** The federal government is quietly monitoring the air in Milwaukee for evidence of a bio-terrorism attack, but 12 News uncovered some holes in the government's secret safety net, including late detection time, delayed response, and a lack of funding for response initiatives. Strategically-placed high-tech monitors secretly stand guard on roof-tops in Milwaukee to give early warning in case of a possible bio-terrorism attack. But a Milwaukee Health Department employee said he believes that six years after its inception, the BioWatch monitor program is not living up to all of its promises. "It has very limited utility for local public health agencies in and of itself," he said. Some residents fear that by the time those monitors can detect something dangerous in the air it may be too late since the detectors are not "real-time monitors." "They give results hours to days after the release." Another concern is that if the monitors were to find something in the air, setting off alarms, the people in charge might not react and take valuable time to question and re-analyze the results.

Source: <http://www.wisn.com/news/16363828/detail.html>

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Information Technology

40. *May 23, ComputerWorld* – (National) **Symantec pins blame for XP SP3 registry corruption on Microsoft.** Two weeks ago, after Microsoft launched Windows XP SP3 on Windows Update, users started reporting that their network cards and previously crafted connections had mysteriously vanished from Windows after updating with the service pack. The Device Manager had been emptied, they said, and Windows' registry, a directory that stores settings and other critical information, had been packed with large numbers of bogus entries. Symantec Corp. said Thursday it was Microsoft's code that crippled some PCs after upgrades to Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3) emptied Device Manager, deleted network connections, and packed the registry with thousands of bogus entries. Most users who posted messages on Microsoft's XP SP3 support forum quickly pinned blame on Symantec. Symantec's senior director for product management of its consumer software said, "All of these problems are related to the same thing: a Microsoft file that created all the garbage entries [in the registry]." He also said that some of the same symptoms had been acknowledged by Microsoft when users updated to Windows XP SP2 several years ago.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9088598&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

41. *May 22, Government Computer News* – (National) **DHS moves to strengthen domain name servers.** The U.S. Homeland Security Department's Science and Technology Directorate has awarded a contract to Secure64 Software to increase the security of the Internet's Domain Name Servers (DNS). DNS is one of the most critical back-end processes on the Internet or any other IP network, but it operates somewhat transparently. DNS alleviates the burden of memorizing a Web site's IP address, instead allowing the user to type in a simple domain name such as www.dhs.gov. The Internet

would not be functional from a practical perspective without DNS. But despite its importance, most DNS implementations are not secured, leaving DNS transactions vulnerable to attacks such as pharming, cache poisoning, and DNS redirection. Pharming occurs when a hacker exploits DNS or host-file vulnerabilities on a computer to redirect the person to a Web site other than the one intended. These fraudulent sites may appear similar to the site the person was attempting to reach, confusing the person and perhaps tricking him or her into revealing sensitive information that can be used to commit identity theft or other crimes. Cache poisoning occurs when an attacker tricks a DNS into accepting falsified IP addresses for Web sites, which are then cached or stored temporarily by the servers. Because DNS servers do not flush their caches for a set period of time, the false information may lead many users to fraudulent Web sites that contain viruses or malware.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/cgi-bin/udt/im.display.printable?client.id=gcn_daily&story.id=46337

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

42. *May 23, Broadcast Engineering* – (National) **Comtech kicks off high-volume production of advanced satellite modem.** Comtech EF Data has begun high-volume production of its CDM-625 advanced satellite modem. The CDM-625 provides bandwidth and power efficiency and combines the low-density parity check (LDPC) forward error correction (FEC) with the DoubleTalk Carrier-in-Carrier bandwidth compression. This new platform is suited for mobile and telecommunications operators, satellite service providers, government and military entities and enterprise users. DoubleTalk Carrier-in-Carrier allows the transmit and receive carriers of a duplex link to share the same transponder space. LDPC is an advanced FEC capable of providing performance much closer to the Shannon limit compared to any other technique. The combination of LDPC and DoubleTalk Carrier-in-Carrier can enable savings in transponder bandwidth and power use as well as earth station BUC/HPA size.

Source: <http://broadcastengineering.com/products/comtech-high-volume-prodcution-0523/>

43. *May 21, Spaceflight Now* – (National) **Powerhouse spacecraft launched for North America.** A Zenit rocket blasted off and disappeared into a moonlit sky early Wednesday, launching a successful one-hour mission to deploy a 10,200-pound cable television broadcasting satellite to cover North America. The rocket released the Galaxy 18 satellite about 61 minutes after liftoff. A ground station in South Africa received the first signals from the spacecraft a few minutes later, confirming it was healthy after

arriving in orbit. Intelsat Ltd. of Bermuda will use Galaxy 18's communications payload to reach customers across the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico. Galaxy 18 will spend the next few weeks circularizing its orbit at an altitude of about 22,300 miles (35,888 km). The craft will be stationed along the equator at 123 degrees west longitude for a mission expected to last more than 15 years. Source: <http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/sfn-080521-sealaunch-galaxy18.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *May 23, Construction Equipment Guide and Associated Press* – (New York) **NYC police seek to control security at Ground Zero.** Since September 11, 2001, turf wars have flared up between city police and the state-run police force in charge of ground zero security. In recent weeks, the city's police department has proposed taking the lead on security at the site, which is owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, an agency run by the governors of those states. The New York Police Department's chief concern, officials say, is the risk of truck bomb attacks, particularly at three office towers to be built along reconstructed city streets. News that the NYPD was staking claim to ground zero has rankled Port Authority police. The latest dispute began when a Police Commissioner recently proposed allowing the city to oversee security on streets surrounding the towers and September 11 memorial, said the state's deputy secretary for public safety. The Port Authority's 1,600-member police force would maintain security at the PATH train station in the area, he said. It was uncertain who would oversee security for the September 11 memorial, which has a below-ground museum planned. Safety experts have proposed a combination of armed security guards and city and Port Authority police for memorial visitors. Concerns about terror threats at the site have focused on the memorial and the Freedom Tower, but the official said, "The World Trade Center footprint could be the most highly prized target on the globe." Source: <http://www.constructionequipmentguide.com/story.asp?story=10612>
45. *May 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Wildfire in central California prompts evacuations.** Hundreds of people evacuated from their homes were anxiously waiting Friday to be let back into their neighborhoods while firefighters battled a fast-moving wildfire burning in a central California mountain range. About 1,400 homes were under evacuation orders – 336 of them mandatory – as the fire continued to grow despite more than 65 engines, 500 firefighters and a swarm of tanker planes and helicopters dousing the area. By Thursday evening, fire officials said the blaze was 15 percent contained. The governor of California has declared a state of emergency for Santa Cruz County. No injuries have been reported. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080523/ap_on_re_us/wildfires;_ylt=Akp6Zd2_Zrn_Gqe.pyZO_R2s0NUE
46. *May 23, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Three buses catch fire near Reagan National Airport.** Three tour buses parked under a hotel breezeway near Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia, caught fire early Friday morning, sending thick, heavy smoke

into the building and forcing the temporary evacuation of about 150 hotel guests, officials said. A hotel general manager said the buses were affiliated with tour groups staying at the hotel. The cause of the fire is under investigation. No one was injured.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/23/AR2008052300894.html>

47. *May 23, Reuters* – (International) **China gets IAEA radiation training for Olympics.** The United Nations nuclear watchdog is training Chinese security personnel to respond to any radiological attack during the Olympic Games in Beijing in August, officials said on Friday. The watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has provided similar assistance at previous sporting events including the 2004 Athens Olympics and the 2006 soccer World Cup in Germany. The director of the IAEA's Office of Nuclear Security said there was no specific intelligence pointing to a threat to the Olympic Games taking place in Beijing from August 8-24. An IAEA security expert said two field exercises had been taking place this week in China. One of them simulated an attempt to smuggle a radioactive source into a venue, and was aimed at testing detection capabilities as well as the response and communication between security personnel. The other involved a suspect package being found in a restaurant.
- Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/olympicsNews/idUSL2382788520080523>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

48. *May 23, NEWS.com.au* – (International) **Brazil Indians end dam protest after violence.** Growing violence has prompted the organizer of a week-long protest against an Amazon dam project to end the demonstration early. He said the protest was cancelled after participants slashed an electric company official with a machete, the Associated Press reported. The organizer feared there would be retaliation for the attack on an Eletrobras engineer after he spoke to demonstrators. The incident made front-page headlines and outraged many Brazilians. About 1000 Indians gathered to protest the proposed \$US6.7 billion Belo Monte dam on the Xingu River. The dam would flood 440 square kilometers of Amazon River basin, displacing 15,000 inhabitants.
- Source: <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,23745628-401,00.html>
49. *May 23, Sun Journal* – (Maine) **Board takes steps to acquire dam.** Selectmen voted Thursday night to start proceedings to acquire the Anasagunticook Lake dam by eminent domain. According to the vice chairman, the first step is to hire an appraiser. The dam, owned by a private party, has been a point of local contention since its gates were ordered opened last May, causing the water level to drop six feet below normal. The gates were opened because inspectors found problems with the dam. The owner was

ordered by the state to correct the problems but has not. He has repeatedly missed deadlines to submit plans for repair and fines have been accruing daily. The town list as reasons for taking the dam issues such as flood control, town economics, water quality and property values.

Source: http://www.sunjournal.com/story/266892-3/OxfordHills/Board_takes_steps_to_acquire_dam/

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